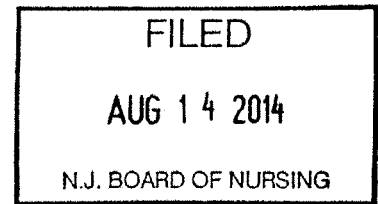


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

JEFFERY THOMAS, R.N.  
LICENSE # NR 11585200

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of ("Board") upon receipt of information that respondent Jeffrey R.N., while employed as a nurse at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital February of 2012, on several occasions in documented assessment the status of a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube

had been installed to feed patient S.C. in the event that he to eat. The records indicate that S.C. was a difficult patient. documentation included documentation that the PEG tube was However, on February 22, 2012, the patient's treating physician the facility found that the PEG tube had been removed, and the wound had already healed completely. S.C. stated that he had out the tube or that it had fallen out two weeks earlier.

According to respondent, the patient had refused assessment of his PEG tube and respondent assumed that it was still in place. Respondent claimed that he charted in the twenty-hour report based upon his assumption since the last time he had assessed the patient the tube was intact. Also according to respondent, on February 22, 2012, the patient's psychiatrist noted that the patient "refused to talk" and that he had "zero insight into his illness and poor judgment."

Respondent further maintains that prior to February 2012, S.C.'s physicians had not entered any order permitted respondent to request a "physical hold" in order to feed S.C. if he refused care. Respondent maintains that subsequently a "physical hold" order was authorized for S.C. Moreover, respondent maintains that there is no indication that S.C. suffered any harm with respect to the removal of the PEG tube.

The Board finds that respondent's documentation that he S.C.'s PEG tube and that it was intact during a period when it

not have been intact indicates that he provided inaccurate documentation with regard to an assessment which could not have occurred, and constitutes professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

The Board further finds that respondent failed to timely complete continuing education requirements for the 2010-2012 renewal period, although he indicated on his 2012 renewal application that he would complete all required continuing education for the 2010-2012 licensing cycle by May 31, 2012. Respondent maintains that he had been hospitalized due to illness during the 2012 renewal period and was unaware that he could have requested a waiver from the Board based upon his severe illness. Accordingly, the Board finds that respondent failed to comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, and engaged in misrepresentation on his 2012 renewal application in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

The parties desiring to resolve this matter without admissions and without further proceedings, and the Board finding that the within order is sufficiently protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS ON THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August 2014,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. A reprimand is hereby imposed for respondent's violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).
2. A reprimand is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).
3. A \$500 civil penalty is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and a \$250 civil penalty is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, for a total penalty amount of \$750. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check, money order, or attorney trust account check, made payable to the State of New Jersey, and shall be submitted along with this signed order.
4. Respondent shall, within six months, document completion of a nursing ethics course pre-approved by the Board, which shall not be eligible towards satisfaction of respondent's continuing education obligations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3. As respondent has already provided documentation of completion of a Board-approved ethics course, no further action is required of respondent in this regard.
5. Continuing education courses dated March 23, 2013 and used to belatedly satisfy continuing education requirements for the 2010-2012 licensing cycle shall not be used to satisfy

respondent's continuing education requirements for the 2012-2014  
renewal period.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

*Patricia Murphy PhD APN*

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C

I have read and understand  
the within Consent Order and  
agree to be bound by its terms.

*Jeffery R Thomas RN*  
Jeffery Thomas, R.N.

Consent as to form and entry:

*Alma L Saravia*  
Alma L. Saravia, Esq.  
Attorney for respondent